

PERSONAL INTERVIEW

Initially, Applicant wishes to thank Examiner Das for the personal interview conducted on June 24, 2002. In the personal interview, Applicant's representative explained one preferred embodiment of the application, essentially directed to a wizard builder 100 such as that shown in Fig. 3 of the present application.

This wizard builder or wizard creator was explained as something which allowed a person to easily build or create a customizable and modifiable wizard. Applicant's representative explained how a wizard, such as that shown in Fig. 1 of the present application, is a very useful software tool in that it provides someone with the ability to produce a customizable type of document, such as a customized fax cover sheet for example. Although the created document is customizable, the actual wizard itself is a fixed tool which is not easily creatable, customizable or modifiable. Applicant's representative explained to the Examiner, by Applicant's wizard builder or creator such as that shown in Fig. 3, a customizable or modifiable wizard could easily be created, which could then be used to create a customizable type of document for example.

The Examiner appeared to be receptive to this preferred embodiment of Applicant's invention, and indicated that such a type of wizard builder or wizard creator was not generally known to her, although she indicated that a further search would have to be conducted. The Examiner acknowledged that the Batch et al. reference was not directed to creating wizards, and was at best only directed to creating some type of modifiable program based upon the use of various software tools. However, the Examiner indicated that most of the claims of the present application were not directed to a method or device for creating a wizard and thus requested that such limitations be added to the claims of the present application to clearly distinguish them from

Batch et al. Applicant's representative presented arguments as to why Batch et al. did not teach or suggest the various limitations set forth in the claims of the present application in their current state, but agreed to consider the Examiner's suggestions for amending the claims. At that time, the interview was concluded.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

Many claims of the present application currently stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being anticipated or rendered obvious by Batch et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,423,023). These rejections are respectfully traversed for the reasons set forth in the Reply Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 of April 26, 2002, which is hereby incorporated herein by reference, and for the following additional reasons.

Applicants have amended various ones of the claims of the present application as suggested by the Examiner to change "software tool" to --wizard--. Thus, claim 1 has now been clarified to be directed to a method for creating a wizard, and includes the aspect to "create a wizard" within the body of the claim. As Batch et al. has nothing to do with creating a wizard, let alone prompting input of process steps and potential selections associated with the process steps, used in creating the wizard, as set forth in claim 1 of the application, for example, Batch et al. cannot be used to render any of the claims of the present application anticipated or obvious.

The system of Batch et al. includes default displays that arguably prompt to the user to either select something or input another selection. But prompting the user to input a selection does not equate to prompting both the input of process steps and associated selections, and using those to create a wizard as set forth in claim 1 of the present application. By Applicant's method set forth in claim 1, an extremely useful wizard can be created in a customizable fashion by the

user, wherein the created wizard itself can allow for, for example, a variable creation of a document, variable creation of a guide which walks a user step by step through an unfamiliar or potentially complex task, for example, etc. Such a method as set forth in claim 1 for example, cannot therefore be taught or rendered obvious by a mere modifiable program as set forth in Batch et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection is respectfully requested.

Somewhat similarly, claim 20 is directed to a wizard creator and includes a processor adapted to create a wizard. Such a wizard creator is not taught or suggested by Batch et al. Somewhat similarly, each of the remaining independent claims, and all claims dependent thereon, is also allowable over Batch et al. Accordingly, withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and allowance of each the claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

ENTRY OF AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL IS PROPER

Applicant respectfully requests entry of this Amendment After Final in that it places the claims in a form clearly allowable over the prior art of record, as suggested by the Examiner. In addition, the amendments to the claims do not raise any new issues which would require further consideration and/or search in that they merely incorporate features originally presented in dependent claim form, including dependent claim 16, 55 and 56 for example. Accordingly, entry of the Amendment and allowance of the claims in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, withdrawal of all outstanding rejections and allowance of each of claims 1-15, 17-54 and 57-65 in connection with the present application is earnestly solicited.

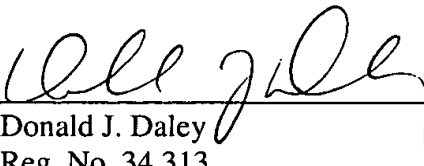
Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant(s) hereby petition(s) for a one (1) month extension of time for filing a reply to the outstanding Office Action and submit the required \$110.00 extension fee herewith.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Donald J. Daley, Reg. No. 34,313 at the telephone number of the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-0750 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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MARKED UP VERSION OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A [software tool creation] method for creating a wizard, comprising:

prompting input of process steps and a plurality of potential selections associated with each of the process steps;

storing input process steps and associated potential selections; and

using the stored process steps and associated potential selections to create a [software tool] wizard for outputting the input process steps based upon input selections.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the created [software tool] wizard is displayed.

7. (Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the created [software tool] wizard is displayed as sequential process steps with potential selections.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising storing the created [software tool] wizard.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein at least one of a stored process step and potential selection in the created [software tool] wizard is modifiable.

15. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the created [software tool] wizard sequentially conveys each of the input process steps and prompts selection of a potential selection for each process step.

17. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the created [software tool] wizard sequentially displays each of the input process steps.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the created [software tool] wizard audibly sequentially outputs each of the input process steps.

20. (Amended) A [software tool] wizard creator, comprising:
a user interface, adapted to prompt input of process steps and potential selections associated with each of the process steps;
a memory adapted to store input process steps and associated potential selections;
and
a processor, adapted to create a [software tool] wizard based upon the stored process steps and associate potential selections.

21. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 20, wherein the user interface is displayed.

22. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 21, wherein the user interface is an integrated input and display.

23. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 21, wherein the user interface is a touch-screen.

24. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 20, wherein the user interface prompts audibly.

25. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 21, wherein the memory is adapted to store audibly input process steps and associated potential selections.

26. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 20, wherein the user interface is further adapted to prompt input of a designation, associating a potential selection with a subsequent process step.

27. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 20, wherein one of the potential selections permits input of a character string.

28. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 20, wherein the user interface prompts input of a query as a process step.

29. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 20, wherein the memory is further adapted to store the created [software tool] wizard.

30. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 20, wherein the memory is further adapted to store the created [software tool] wizard.

31. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 20, wherein at least one of a stored process step and potential selection in the created [software tool] wizard is modifiable through the user interface.

32. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 20, wherein the user interface further prompts input of a designation, associated with a process step, indicating one of machine and non-machine processing.

33. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 32, wherein the user interface further prompts input of information relating to the machine processing upon receiving an input of a designation indicating machine processing.

34. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 3, wherein the user interface further prompts input of a machine connection.

35. (Amended) The [software tool] wizard creator of claim 34, wherein the input of the machine connection includes input of a URL.

36. (Amended) An article of manufacture, comprising:

a computer usable medium including,

first code for causing a computer to prompt input of process steps and a plurality of potential selections associated with each of the process steps;

second code for causing a computer to store input process steps and associate potential selections; and

third code for causing a computer to create a [software tool] wizard based upon the stored process steps and associated potential selections.

44. (Amended) A propagated signal, comprising:

first code segment instructing prompting input of process steps and a plurality of potential selections associated with each of the process steps;

second code segment instructing storage of input process steps and associated potential selections; and

third code segment instructing creation of a [software tool] wizard based upon stored process steps and associated potential selections.

57. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising:

accessing prestored information and creating the [software tool] wizard, at least in part, based upon the prestored information.